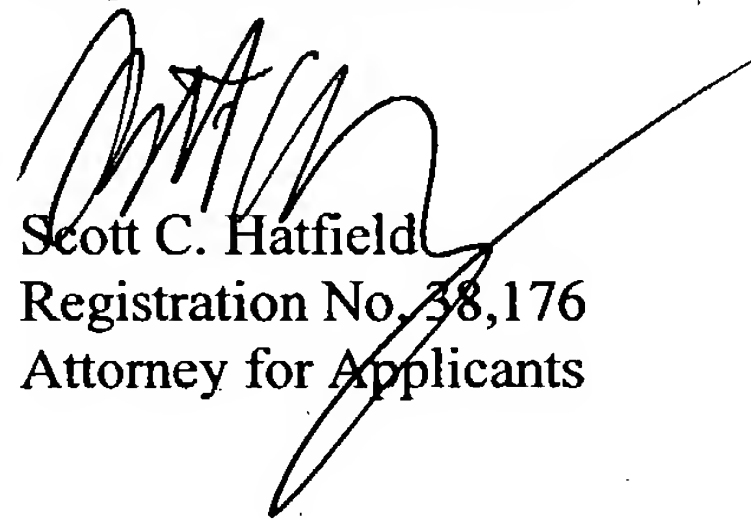


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### REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment and allowance of all pending claims. In particular, the Applicants request amendment of Claim 19 to depend from Claim 18. The Applicants further request examination and allowance of all claims. A Notice of Allowance is thus respectfully requested in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone should any formalities need to be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

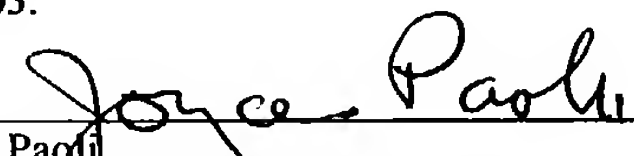


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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 6, 2003.



Joyce Paoli  
Date of Signature: August 6, 2003